



Serving the 7th Senatorial District

FEBRUARY 2020

# State Senator **VINCENT HUGHES**

*Reports to the People*

**SEN. HUGHES ANNOUNCES . . .**

**\$1 MILLION**

*for* **JOBS** *for* **TEENAGERS!**

*Sen. Hughes works with Gov. Wolf to provide opportunities for our youth*

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# SEN. HUGHES ANNOUNCES FUNDING FOR AFTER SCHOOL JOBS FOR TEENAGERS



Standing with Sen. Larry Farnese, Sen. Sharif Street, PA Labor Secretary Gerry Oleksiak, Chekemma J. Fulmore-Townsend of the Philadelphia Youth Network, Sharmain Matlock-Turner of the Urban Affairs Coalition and Deborah O'Brien from Bank of America, Sen. Hughes announced a \$1 million grant to create jobs for teenagers in Philadelphia. The announcement was made at the West Philadelphia Community Center in Mantua. "We were able to successfully make the point to Gov. Wolf that investing in young people throughout the year is an obvious benefit to them and to the rest of our community. They get jobs, skills and a paycheck, and we get young people better prepared to realize their dreams and to make a more substantial contribution to the world," Sen. Hughes said.



*Senator Hughes addressed the student workers who were celebrating the completion of the Urban Affairs Coalition summer works program!*

# SEN. HUGHES HELPS CHEYNEY UNIVERSITY KEEP ITS ACCREDITATION

In November of 2020, Cheyney University received the great news that its accreditation would be maintained and extended for three years! This news reflects the hard work of President Aaron Walton and the entire Cheyney family. The difficult decisions that were made cleared the path for major public and private investments in Cheyney. In the Spring of 2019, the James Hughes Memorial Scholarship Fund continued its long standing annual commitment to Cheyney University and made a \$26,000.00 contribution in scholarship funds for promising Cheyney scholars. Although there is more work to be done, Cheyney University's future is bright. The renewed belief in Cheyney is best represented by a dramatic increase in student enrollment. These new students are some of PA's best and brightest and the fact they are choosing Cheyney University is an important statement that we all need to pay attention to.



**Congratulations,  
Cheyney University!**



**TO APPLY TO CHEYNEY:**  
[cheyney.edu/admissions/apply-today](http://cheyney.edu/admissions/apply-today)

1837 University Circle • P.O. Box 200  
Cheyney, PA 19319-0200 • 610-399-2275  
Toll Free: 1-800-CHEYNEY • 1-800-243-9639





# FIGHTING THE FIGHT TO CLEAN UP TOXIC AND BROKEN SCHOOLS

**SEN. HUGHES LEADS CALL TO ACTION AND PROVIDES SOLUTIONS!**



**#FundOurFacilities**

**A**s a result of an ongoing effort, more public schools in Philadelphia are being tested, and more schools are being determined broken and toxic. Sen. Hughes has worked closely with Gov. Wolf and has brought back millions of dollars from the State of Pennsylvania, to help address this generational problem and get numerous schools cleaned up. However, as it is becoming clearer how serious the problem is, the current extra dollars are just not enough. That's why on Nov. 22, 2019, Sen. Hughes laid out a series of short- and long-term funding solutions that are available at the State level to address this growing crisis. "This problem, which is most obvious in Philadelphia because of years of underfunding and neglect, is a statewide problem. Every child in Philadelphia and across PA should have access to clean and safe 21st Century schools. This fight needs your support. To join this effort, contact my office and check out my website to see what's been done, and to see our proposed funding solutions," Sen. Hughes said.



Learn more about the senator's solutions, the Fund Our Facilities coalition and how to join the fight to clean toxic schools at [www.senatorhughes.com/toxicschools](http://www.senatorhughes.com/toxicschools)



## IMPORTANT: THE 2020 CENSUS IS COMING ON APRIL 1 AND EVERYONE MUST GET COUNTED!

**E**very 10 years, the U.S. Census bureau counts every citizen in the country, no matter what their status is. This count determines how government funding gets spent, and it also determines political representation. If you don't get counted, you risk our community losing billions of dollars and losing political representation. Both are bad! So get involved in getting everyone counted. If you want to have a community conversation on the 2020 Census and get your questions answered, contact our office and we will get one set up for you.

The Census Bureau is hiring, and they are paying well: \$23-28 dollars/hour. If you want to work for the 2020 Census, go to [2020census.gov/jobs](http://2020census.gov/jobs)



Learn more about the census and apply at  
[2020census.gov/jobs](http://2020census.gov/jobs)



# NO CHILD SHOULD STARVE ON ANY DAY, ANY WEEKEND, OR ANY HOLIDAY!

## SEN. HUGHES AND SHERYL LEE RALPH-HUGHES COLLECT 20,000 POUNDS OF FOOD TO FEED OUR CHILDREN

Sen. Hughes and his wife, Sheryl Lee Ralph-Hughes galvanized Gov. Wolf, Attorney General Josh Shapiro, and other elected officials, business and community leaders and radio personalities to address the fact that too many of our children are not eating after school, over the weekend, and over any holiday period. This team led by Sen. Hughes and Sheryl, with short notice, collected 20,000 pounds of food for our children. The food was donated to the Share Food Program for distribution to our children through their schools. We cannot allow this unacceptable situation to continue. It is being made worse as the President is in the process of cutting back food stamps for needy families. Learn how you can help or donate by contacting Share at [sharefoodprogram.org](http://sharefoodprogram.org) or call my office at 215-879-7777.



From left to right, Dr. Aaron Smith, AKA "The Rappin Professor" from WURD Radio, City Commissioner Omar Sabir, PA Rep. Donna Bullock, Attorney General Josh Shapiro, Sen. Vincent Hughes, George Matysik, Executive Director of Share Food Program, and Sheryl Lee Ralph-Hughes



Rep. Morgan Cephas and Sen. Sharif Street joined Sen. Hughes and his wife Sheryl Lee Ralph-Hughes to spread the word.

## SEN. HUGHES HELPS SECURE \$18 MILLION IN FUNDING FOR NEW SENIOR SERVICE CENTER ON HENRY AVENUE



**\$18 MILLION FOR HOUSING**  
A #NewDeal4NewPA Program



As part of his New Deal For A New PA program, Sen. Hughes was critical in securing funding for a transformational new senior services center on Henry Ave. The InnoVage Pennsylvania Life Center in the Allegheny West neighborhood of the city provides a comprehensive living space for seniors that also features a medical facility, gym, kitchen and additional amenities and activities—all on the same campus. Sen. Hughes has been steadfast in his efforts to bring more housing opportunities to the residents of his district, and this is a glowing example of those efforts.

# BIG WIN FOR DEMOCRACY:

**EARLY VOTING AND OTHER MAJOR VOTING CHANGES COMING TO PA!**



In Oct. of 2019, Gov. Tom Wolf signed Act 77 into law, bringing Pennsylvania some of the most progressive changes in voting regulations in the nation. Early voting and expanded voter registration are now a part of Pennsylvania's voting rules and regulations. Senator Hughes has been at the forefront of the legislative and advocacy efforts to enact these major reforms. He brought the National Commission for Voter Justice to Drexel University to take testimony, convened regional public officials at Philadelphia City Hall in a listening session on voter reform, organized voter reform press conferences in the State Capitol in Harrisburg, and much more. This is a big victory for democracy and the Senator is grateful for your advocacy and support in this fight.



Rev. Jesse Jackson, attorney Barbara Arnwine, and Senator Hughes, all leaders of the National Commission for Voter Justice, took testimony on election security and voter reform issues at Drexel University.

**TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE NEW VOTING RULES  
GO TO [VOTESPA.COM](https://votespa.com) OR CALL MY OFFICE AT: 215-879-7777**

## GET INVOLVED:

**JOIN THE FIGHT FOR COMMON-SENSE GUN LAWS IN PA**

There is significant momentum for gun reform in Pennsylvania. Senate Bill 88, which calls for universal background checks, has over 80 percent support among the public. But we need you to get involved and make your voices heard.

**These organizations are just a few that you can join to win the fight for common sense gun laws:**

- Cease Fire PA | [ceasefirepa.org](https://ceasefirepa.org)
- Mothers in Charge | [mothersincharge.org](https://mothersincharge.org)
- Anti-Violence Partnership | [avpphila.org](https://avpphila.org)
- Mom's Demand Action | [facebook.com/MomsDemandActionPA](https://facebook.com/MomsDemandActionPA)



## GET INVOLVED:

**PROTECT THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT FROM ATTACK**

The Affordable Care Act has been under constant attack since President Barack Obama signed it into law. Those attacks have increased in recent years and they are jeopardizing quality, affordable health care in PA and across the nation. Sen. Hughes is leading the fight for the Pennsylvania Senate Democrats by introducing a package of bills to protect pre-existing conditions, lifetime coverage and all of the aspects of the ACA. We need you to join the fight to put

pressure on the General Assembly to get these bills passed.

**Good organizations to join to protect our healthcare**

- Pennsylvania Health Access Network | [pahealthaccess.org](https://pahealthaccess.org)
- Area Agencies on Aging | [aging.pa.gov](https://aging.pa.gov)
- Disability Rights Pennsylvania | [disabilityrightspa.org/](https://disabilityrightspa.org/)
- SEIU Healthcare PA | [seiuhcpa.org](https://seiuhcpa.org)
- Protect Our Care | [protectourcare.org](https://protectourcare.org)





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## SEN. VINCENT HUGHES IN PARTNERSHIP WITH CAMPAIGN FOR WORKING FAMILIES PRESENTS:

# FREE TAX PREPARATION AND EITC FILING SESSIONS



*Have your taxes prepared at no charge. File for the Earned Income Tax Credit, which could get you thousands in tax refunds.*

- **Saturday, February 22 • 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.**  
**West Philadelphia Community Center/Mantua**
- **Saturday, March 7 • 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.**  
**Ethel Allen Elementary School/Strawberry Mansion**
- **Saturday, March 21 • 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.**  
**Barry Elementary School/West Philadelphia**
- **Saturday, April 4 • 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.**  
**West Phila. High School and Harambee Charter School**

**Come Prepared! Here's what you need to bring:**  
For quick and easy tax filing bring the following documents for you, your spouse, and anyone you are claiming as dependent.

**Identification:** Current driver's license • State ID • Passport • Green Card • Employment

**Authorization Card:** Birth dates of all household members

**Social Security Number:** Social Security Card (or other SS document with full SSN on it)

**Income:** W-2 and 1099 forms for income • pensions or Social Security, or unemployment received in 2018 • Previous year's tax return (if available)

**Childcare:** Year-end statement for childcare expenses • Social Security Number or Employer Identification Number (EIN) of the provider

**Education:** 1098-T form for college/trade school expenses paid

**Medical:** 1095-A statement (if applicable) • Total all expenses plus bills/receipts for medicine and doctor's visits as backup

**Home:** Property tax documents



## EVENT BONUS – HOUSING WORKSHOPS WHILE YOU WAIT!

- Credit Repair and Homeownership
- Eviction & Foreclosure
- Onsite Utility Assistance
- Living Wills, Tangled Titles & Deeds
- Investing In Real Estate

*Please RSVP at (215) 879-7777 • To learn more, visit [senatorhughes.com/SMTM](http://senatorhughes.com/SMTM)*